



PRESIDENT NIXON
Abandoning the blanket

NIXON OPENS THE WATERGATE!

Aides Will Be Expected To Testify

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Watergate investigation is gaining momentum after President Nixon abandoned the blanket claim of innocence for White House aides.

Nixon said Tuesday he will send his aides to testify publicly as demanded by Senate investigators preparing for hearings next

month.

He said he launched a new presidential inquiry into the matter last month, about the time Watergate burglar James McCord began telling his story to a Senate committee and a federal grand jury.

This time the President's inquiry is being conducted by persons outside the White House staff, some of whose members reportedly have been implicated in McCord's secret testimony.

In a related development, Nixon's re-election committee was reported to have offered the Democratic party \$525,000 in damages to settle a multimillion-dollar package of lawsuits over the Watergate raid. But Democratic National Chairman Robert S. Strauss said he wouldn't accept any offer until it becomes clear that the affair will be aired sufficiently in public inquiries.

Nixon disclosed his actions in a three-minute statement to newsmen at the White House. No questions were permitted.

He said he met Sunday with Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst and Asst. Atty. Gen. Henry Petersen who gets reports of grand jury testimony.

"I can report today that there have been major developments

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)



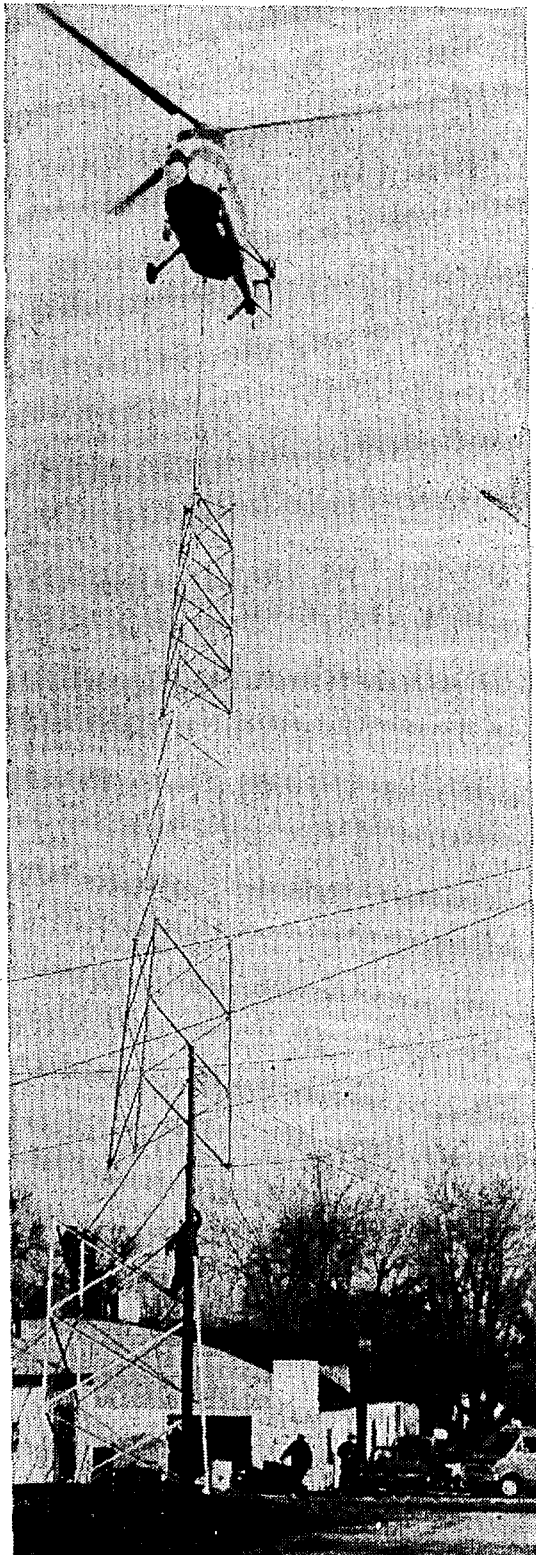
JOHN W. DEAN III
Boss is dissatisfied

Storm Aid Officials Due Here

State and federal authorities plan to be in Berrien county within the next two weeks to inform local officials on methods of applying for federal assistance to areas damaged by the mid-March storm.

The meetings are for officials to spell out various types of

applications for federal aid including Small Business Administration loan policies, State Police Lt. James Somers, federal disaster coordinator, announced. He said SBA officials hope to be in the county next week to discuss establishment of a field office for loan applications.



HELICOPTER BUILDS TOWER: A 200-foot communications tower for General Communications and Electronics company, New Buffalo, was expected to be completed this morning with installation of final two sections by Midwest Helicopter Service, Chicago. Tower will be used in general communications, including police, fire, hospital, business and industry, according to Steve Brant, company president. He said signals from new public shore station for recreational boaters in Lake Michigan also will be beamed from tower when equipment rigging is completed in about three weeks. (Don Wehner photos)



ANOTHER TRY TODAY: Implication of top two sections, totaling 120 feet, of 200-foot communications tower in New Buffalo was scheduled this morning after high winds prevented control of pre-assembled sections yesterday. Tower construction at General Communications and Electronics company property, 10 South Taylor street, will cost about \$10,000, said Steve Brant, company president. Tower will be lighted at night with red navigational lights, strobe beacon on top as guide for area boaters on Lake Michigan. Brant praised New Buffalo police for traffic control yesterday as spectators gathered to watch progress.

BH Will Not Oppose Sodus Transfer Bid

BY JIM SHANAHAN
BH City Editor

For the first time, the Benton Harbor board of education won't object officially to transfer of one of its constituent areas.

The board voted 6 to 1 last night not to oppose transfer of part of Sodus township from Benton Harbor to Eau Claire school district.

The proposed transfer is up for a hearing next Tuesday and the board directed its superintendent and legal counsel to appear at the hearing and present the board's latest position.

It represented a drastic change in policy for Benton Harbor whose boards of education in the past have battled transfers at county and state levels.

The area petitioning for transfer is the former Sodus, Mt. Pleasant and Chadwick districts. Mrs. Ilene Fox, board secretary and only Sodus area resident on the board, cast the lone dissenting vote.

Mrs. Fox said the board's refusal to oppose transfer was contrary to its own past policies and those of the State Board of Education.

Asked why the board majority voted that way, she

replied:

"I would hate to be publicly quoted as why they voted as they did, but let their records speak for themselves."

She noted that the State Board of Education last year turned down a Sodus appeal to transfer to Eau Claire. The area currently seeking transfer is the same except that the former Stump district is not included. Stump has the only black neighborhood in Sodus township.

Mrs. Fox said transfer of the Sodus area would promote racial isolation and mean unconstitutional de jure segregation by a governmental body.

The resolution not to oppose transfer was presented by Philip McDonald and seconded by Ervin Kampe.

McDonald said the board has been presented plans for redistricting of the present Benton Harbor system and transfer of Sodus would not be "inconsistent with a general plan for redistricting the Benton Harbor Area School district, which is imminent..."

The resolution was counter to an administrative proposal presented at last week's regular board meeting. The board tabled this measure which called for designating

representatives to appear at the hearing and oppose transfer.

New petitions for transfer of

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 6)

State Starts To Feel Gas Pinch

DETROIT (AP) — Michigan, where cars are king, is starting to feel the pinch of what could be a major national gasoline shortage this summer.

Prices are skyrocketing in the Detroit area, which is noted for price wars that until recently often sent the cost of a gallon of gas plummeting to 29.9 cents and lower. Now the average for regular gas is about 10 cents higher.

At the same time, the city of Detroit and the state government have raised the spectre of a lineup of police cars, fire trucks and other public vehicles at corner gas stations because of inability to make adequate bulk purchases.

Detroit officials say the city budget could take as much as a \$1 million jolt because oil companies appear unwilling to continue providing gas at the cheap rates they are currently giving to fleet customers.

With current contracts expiring April 30, the city asked for new bids earlier this month, but not a single offer was received.

In Lansing Tuesday, the state reported that of the 151 vendors who were asked to bid, only four have offered to make bulk sales for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The total amount offered was only 2.6 million gallons, far short of the 9.5 million gallons needed. And the wholesale prices offered averaged 21 cents per gallon, compared to the current 13.5 cents.

Of the major companies operating in the state, only Standard Oil Co. filed a bid.

Al Brewer, the state buyer executive, said there would be no shortage for essential services, but that unless more gas becomes available, there will be severe retrenchment in the use

of vehicles. Detroit Purchasing Director Arthur Cope said the city's \$910,000 budget for gasoline could cover only half of the needs.

"We were told that because federal guidelines have frozen

petroleum prices to a one per cent hike, costs have risen to the extent that distributors can't bid in city requirements," he said.

"It appears that by changing

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 8)

Another Berrien Lottery Winner

Berrien county, for the fourth time in five weeks, will be represented tomorrow at the Michigan Lottery super drawing to be held in the Municipal Skating Rink in Wyandotte.

Bobby Ray Tippy, a 38-year-old saw operator at Kaywood Corp., Benton Harbor, is one of 15 candidates for the \$200,000 top prize.

Tippy, who has been employed by Kaywood for 13 years, has already won \$10,000 by having both winning numbers on a single lottery ticket. Depending on the draw, Tippy could become a \$50,000 or \$200,000 winner, or if his luck deserts him, he can come home with the same \$10,000 he went to Wyandotte with.

Tippy, of 2154 Crawford drive, Benton Heights, says he "feels fine" but is a bit "shaky" waiting for the big day.

"I never won anything in my

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)



BOBBY RAY TIPPY
\$200,000 Contestant

After May 1st, Leather's Schwinn Cyclery will be closed all day Mondays. Adv.

Save 10% on Easter shoes at Edisan's thru Sat. Adv.

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ITALIAN NIGHT AT WHITE HOUSE: President and Mrs. Nixon pose, from left, with Vice President Spiro Agnew; Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti; his wife; Frank Sinatra and Mrs. Agnello.

new, right, at the conclusion of a White House state dinner Tuesday night. Sinatra provided the entertainment during Italian-American night at the White House. (AP Wirephoto)

BH McLellan Manager Believes In Downtown



EXPANSION IN OFFING?: Business activity has slowed along Benton Harbor's Main street, but McLellan's has grown busier with sales each year, and possibly may be expanded, reported Manager Mary Phillips. Nothing is set, but store reportedly would remain on Main street, and possibly expand into vacant store, at right. (Staff photo)

Mary Phillips Will Get Firm's Award As Top Improver

BY RALPH LUTZ
Staff Writer

Benton Harbor Merchant Mary Phillips believes that Main street can return to the fore as a vibrant business strip. She's got the credentials to prove her point.

Mrs. Phillips, who manages McLellan's variety store at 80 West Main street, will be honored as top district improver by her employer, the G. McNew division of McCrory Corp.

The district includes 60 stores over Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

The honor will be presented during the McCrory Corp. national convention next Wednesday through Friday, at Hollywood, Fla.

HONORED LAST YEAR

Mrs. Phillips last year was honored as top district performer. The awards hinge on sales volumes from year to year, and they just might be a spark that could rekindle Benton Harbor's Main street.

Mrs. Phillips this week talked about a possible expansion of her store. She said her company is interested, too. Nothing definite has been set, but Mrs. Phillips said any expansion would be on Main street, possibly into an empty building next door.

Mrs. Phillips has been in Benton Harbor only since January, 1971. A former manager was ill and had to retire. Main street was on a downhill ride. The McLellan store was going down, too, Mrs. Phillips said.

VOLUME WAS IMPRESSIVE

No statistics were related on increased business volume, but Mrs. Phillips termed it strong and impressive to her company.

The G. McNew division of McCrory Corp. operates 1,100 stores in 46 states, after spinning off obsolete units, reported Samuel Neuman, board chairman and chief executive officer of the York, Pa.-based firm. The G. in G. McNew stands for H.L. Green stores, while the Mc stands for McCrory and McLellan stores in the chain. The New represents 750 J.J. Newberry stores, acquired last year.

What about Main street in Benton Harbor, and the future of this McLellan store? Mrs. Phillips has some positive ideas.

"Customer service is the only thing that will get people downtown here, or in any city. And, Main street is where Benton Harbor needs the business—not off on side streets."

Mrs. Phillips works with five full time employees, and her order is to not allow a customer to wander around, confused over finding an item.

OFFER CUSTOMERS HELP

"Go up and offer to help. Chances are we have it. We're heavily stocked. If we don't, advise the customer on a store that would have it."

On expansion, Mrs. Phillips said she wouldn't want to double the store size. "Maybe about one and a half times larger, and include a soda fountain. Women often like a cup of coffee or snack when shopping, and this could serve them."

Main street's route back would be hastened by the return of even one or two businesses, Mrs. Phillips feels.

Questions were put to her: Competition from giants, like K-mart, shopping centers, and crime downtown.

Stores like K-mart complement, rather than hurt, came one answer. In shopping centers, "People really don't save money. And the stores pay extremely high overhead."

CRIME IS OVERTATED

Crime was seen as overrated. "There's crime in any city you go to, but downtown is not the unsafe place some have been led to believe. There's been talk about policemen patrolling downtown on foot. But, you don't see

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)



A POSITIVE APPROACH: Mrs. Mary Phillips, manager of McLellan's variety store, 80 West Main street, Benton Harbor, has turned store into profit-maker and will be honored as district top improver by her employer, G. McNew division of McCrory Corp., which operated 1,100 stores in 46 states. (Staff photo)

Document Being Assembled

BH Charter Election Scheduled Sept. 18

Benton Harbor residents will vote on whether to accept or reject a new city charter at a special election, scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 18.

The date was approved Tuesday by the city charter commission, as chapters of the proposed document are rapidly being assembled by the group's special counsel, Atty. David Morris of Kalamazoo.

With seven tentative chapters written, although yet to be reviewed and perhaps revised, Morris said he will get out three more before taking his vacation next month. The three are on taxation; streets; and miscellaneous matter. The final chapter will deal with transitions into the new charter, if it's approved. Morris predicted that the entire draft can be finished by June 30, to leave plenty of time for discussions before it's

sent to the governor's office by July 20. This is requirement, to be done 60 days before the election.

Revisions would be made on recommendations, and the first from city commissioners was to be at this afternoon's charter commission session. Scheduled to appear were Commissioners Carl Brown, Charles Yarbrough and Edward Merrill. Other commissioners will be heard during the following two sessions.

Morris voiced optimism, noting that tentative drafts provide greater flexibility, especially in areas providing the city commission greater authority.

The first formal opposition to a proposed change came from the cemetery board, in the form of a resolution, signed by its chairman, Richard Peters. This

resolution stated that handling the cemetery's \$150,000 budget is not "a horrible" burden. The quote was from a statement made at an earlier charter commission meeting by former city manager Don Stewart. He felt boards, like the cemetery and library overseers, should be advisory, only. Charter commissioners indicated agreement.

It was noted Tuesday that Peters and another cemetery board member, Otis Joseph, have moved out of Benton Harbor. Their replacements by city residents hinges on appointments, yet to be made by Mayor Joseph, it was reported.

The charter commission is empowered to set its own election for which expenses are included in the charter commission's budget.

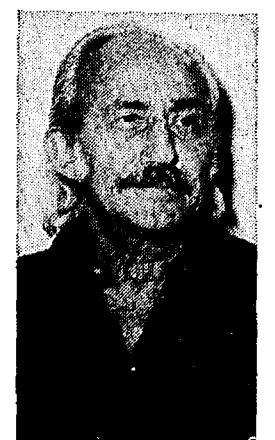
St. Joseph Township

More Details Asked On Apartment Plan

Ben Teitel of South Haven Tuesday night asked the St. Joseph township planning commission for instructions on procedure to build an apartment complex on Niles road at Lincoln avenue.

Teitel has built and operated apartment houses in South Haven, St. Joseph and Muskegon. He planned to build a fourth unit to his Lakewood Apartment complex on Lakeshore drive in St. Joseph when a referendum promoted by a St. Joseph resident, Tom Sparks, overturned city commission approval.

Planning Chairman Ernest Knauf told Teitel to bring in a plot plan as the first step toward rezoning the existing B-2 (commercial) to R-5 (multi-family residential).



BEN TEITEL
South Haven Builder

SJ Fire Snuffed

St. Joseph firemen Tuesday (4:41 p. m.) extinguished a fire in the engine compartment of a truck owned by Professional Maintenance at its headquarters, 217 Broad street, St. Joseph. Firemen reported negligible damage.

Teitel proposed building a 138-apartment house similar to his Lakewood units on six acres of ground on Niles road, north of the Union 76 service station located at Niles road and Lincoln avenue.

Planning commissioners sketching out township building regulations indicated that 124 apartments may be the maximum number for the lot, taking into consideration setback lines and parking requirements.

Teitel said he was interested not only in building regulations but in the feeling of the commission regarding an apartment house at that site. "If you are opposed," he said "say so and we can both save a lot of time." This followed a comment by Royce Leary that available commercial sites in the township were in short supply.

But Chairman Knauf said the commission needed a more specific plot plan and Teitel agreed to provide one.

The commission told Tom Greenhoe to get a letter from the Benton Harbor area school superintendent indicating approval or disapproval of a pool hall at 305 West Empire street. Greenhoe, of Amerequip Co., 1021 Pipestone, Benton Harbor also must get approval from the building inspector and health inspector on the adequacy of the proposed hall.

Robert Pozniwko of Superior Home Builders, St. Joseph, filed site plans for an apartment house development on Cleveland avenue near Hawthorne. A copy will go to the county planning commission.

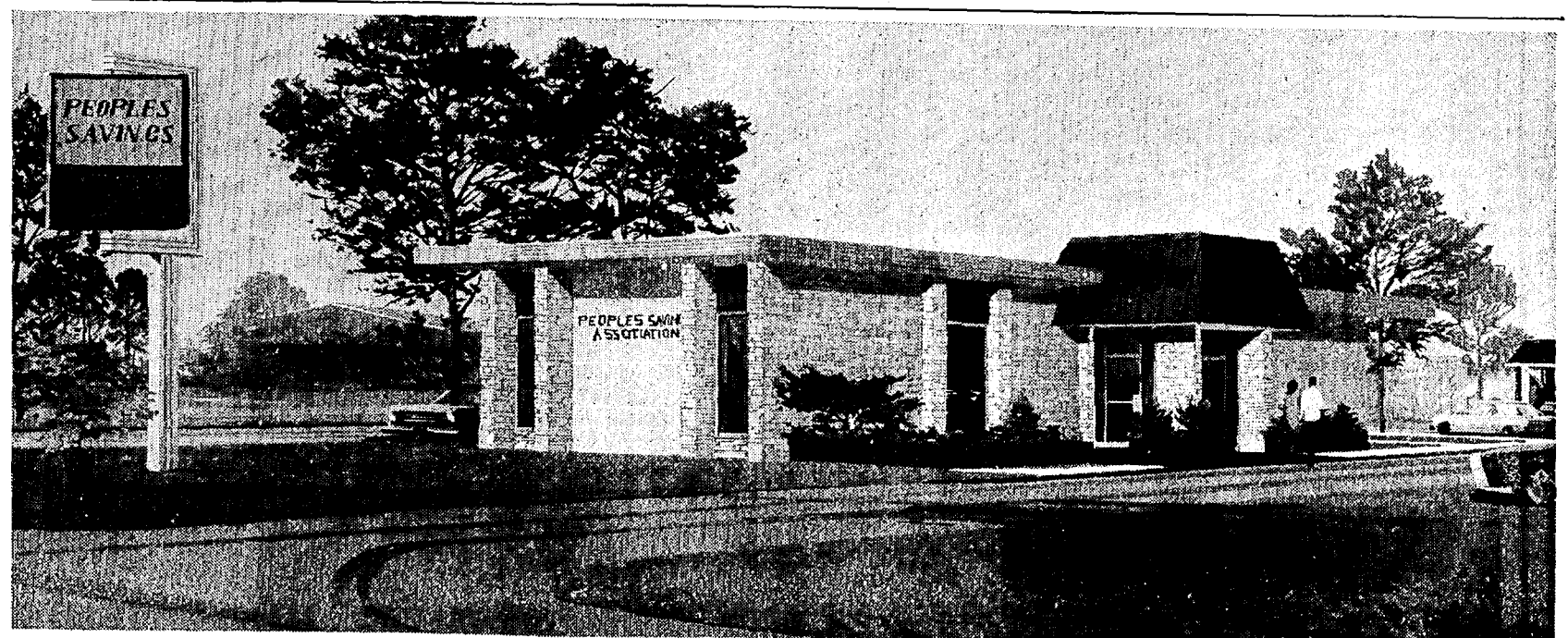
Leary presented the board with copies of a national building code and said the strongest endorsement for St. Joseph township to adopt such a code was the fact that it has already been adopted by St. Joseph, Benton Harbor and Benton township.

Unless the township adopts

the national code it will have to follow a state code which is less restrictive than the national code.

Details of the building codes are under study by various members of the commission before a recommendation will be made.

The planners also reviewed the township comprehensive plan as outlined by a Chicago planning consultant firm, made some recommendations, brought the township land use map up to date and planned to send it back to the consultant.



PEOPLES SAVINGS TO EXPAND: Peoples Savings association's Stevensville office will look like this, after construction of 364 square-foot addition is completed by mid-summer. Addition will be from near main entrance, to the left and will be under construction as soon as possible; reported Robert Durren, association president. Addition will

nearly double Stevensville office, opened in 1964 on John Beers road, a block west of Cleveland avenue. Durren said office will utilize two more tellers, and will have separate application and closing offices for loans, now joined in one room. Project follows recent remodeling of main office, 115 West Main,

Benton Harbor. Other offices are at Niles and Lester, St. Joseph; Colfax and Napier, Fairplain; Watervliet; Niles; and Grand Haven. Durren said addition's cost estimates and selection of contractor are to be completed soon. Architect is Daniels and Zermack, Ann Arbor.

Disaster Loan Applicants Must Hurry

*March 16 Victim Given
60 Days To File*

Lakefront property owners in Berrien county who may want to apply for federal disaster loans because of damage sustained from the March 16 storm on Lake Michigan should do so within 60 days from April 16, according to Congressman Edward Hutchinson.

He reported from Washington that a bill presently is on its way to the president's office that would cancel the provision that forgives the first \$5,000 of a disaster loan. It also will boost the interest rate to five per cent. Persons who file within 60 days of the date the county was declared a disaster area can get the \$5,000 free if they qualify for the loan. The interest rate on loans applied for before the deadline will be one per cent.

Applications can be submitted to the Small Business Administration office in Detroit, Hutchinson said.

It was indicated by Tom McCall, director of the Berrien county office of emergency preparedness, that a SBA representative is expected to come here soon to take applications locally.

All but a few applications for loans for damage from an earlier, Nov. 15, storm were turned down by the SBA, on the basis the damage was caused by erosion and not by the storm.



TRANQUIL BUT MENACING: Calm Black river hardly appears dangerous from the air as it meanders through South Haven, but river is expected to rise 12 to 14 inches by June, intensifying

flood threat to riverside installations like South Haven sewage treatment plant, center. Dikes are being built along river and will include some 70,000

sandbags when completed by volunteers under "Operation Foresight" program of Army Corps of Engineers. (Aerial photo by Adolph Hann)

Real Estate Firm Wins Cass Battle

BY JERRY KRIEGER
County-Farm Editor

CASSOPOLIS — A St. Joseph real estate dealer and his wife can continue to sell the remaining lots in their Four Winds Estates mobile home subdivision on the Mill Pond one mile east of Dowagiac.

In a recent decision, Cass Circuit Judge James E. Hoff ruled the subdivision has a non-conforming use status under the 1971 zoning ordinance of Wayne township in which the subdivision is located. He also ruled the ordinance itself is valid.

Herbert Reimers, head of Reimers Real Estate, and his wife, Irene, platted the 69-lot subdivision in 1964 at a time that Wayne township did not have a zoning ordinance. They sold 13 lots and 11 mobile homes were installed and they had spent in excess of \$35,000 in development costs, Judge Hoff said, when Wayne township adopted a zoning ordinance in 1967. The 40-acre tract, which consists of an island and peninsula on the Mill Pond, was included in a Residential Group I zone. Mobile homes were not permitted in the zone.

The Reimers filed suit against the ordinance on Oct. 19, 1970, after the township board refused to rezone the subdivision to allow mobile homes. Judge Hoff ruled in 1971 that the ordinance was invalid.

Wayne township subsequently adopted another zoning ordinance, which put Four Winds Estates in Residential Group I again, mobile homes excluded.

The Reimers again filed suit against the township on Oct. 26, 1971, and the suit tried before Judge Hoff on Dec. 18-19, 1972.

The ruling giving the sub-

division nonconforming use status, but upholding the ordinance was filed by Judge Hoff April 4.



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Journals Given To Andrews U.

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The physics department at Andrews university has been given a collection of physics journals valued at approximately \$1,300, by Dr. Robert W. Young, associate editor for the Acoustical Society of America. The donor is also affiliated with the Naval Undersea center at San Diego.

The journals, many of them in bound volumes, include a 20-year file of Physics Today, 8 years of American Scientist, and 28 years of American Journal of Physics.

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